

QUAKER HILL

(LOCAL HISTORY)

S E R I E S

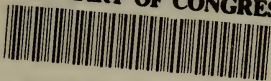


XVI. Washington's  
Headquarters  
at Fredericksburgh

BY

LEWIS S. PATRICK

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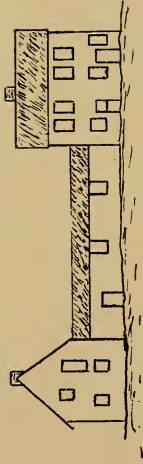
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John Hane's house at Frederickston  
or Kingston, New York, in 1820, Aug. 14.  
From a letter written by his grand-  
son, John H. Hane to his father, Elisha.



In John Hane's petition to Parliament he describes the buildings as  
"a large and commodious dwelling house, containing ten rooms, a  
large storeroom 65 feet distant from the dwelling house with a stone building  
of one story between, which joined each." John H. Hane, his grandson,  
writes, "The extreme buildings are of wood, the connection stone: the large dwelling  
house has never been painted, the latter is red. The yard in front is planted with  
poplar trees. The range of buildings is about 100 ft. long. The stone building had dwelling  
rooms above." Elsewhere, <sup>some</sup> ~~John Hane~~ says that one of the houses was of stone, but I think he had  
gone, as the letter was written in 1850

WASHINGTON'S  
HEADQUARTERS

AND THE

REVOLUTIONARY ARMY

AT

FREDERICKSBURGH

IN THE

STATE OF NEW YORK

September 19th to November 28th, 1778

LEWIS S. PATRICK

MARINETTE, WIS.

September 8th, 1905

MEMBER OF

Illinois Sons of the Revolution

Wisconsin Sons of the American Revolution

American Historical Association

State Historical Society, Wisconsin

READ AT THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE QUAKER HILL CONFERENCE

September the eighth

Nineteen hundred and five

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## INTRODUCTION.

Here in this place, in this presence, in my native County and State, it is an honor to be able to present some of the evidence of an old story, a story that never grows old, never loses its fascination, never loses its interest, the Story of the American Revolution. The interest and the inspiration in the events of the Revolution and the Army, come from the love of the old, the historical; increased and strengthened by researches made, to collect facts and matters of interest, relating to the military services of my ancestor, Col. Henry Ludington, of the Seventh Dutchess Co. N. Y. State Militia (War of the Revolution).

The historians give but the briefest mention of Fredericksburgh. There are many things of interest and moment well worth preserving. Imperfect as my work may be, gathering the evidence from citations has required no small amount of labor and expense. With ampler material, with more authoritative presentation, I can but wish the task could have been better performed, and that some abler pen may be inspired to continue the investigation, and earn the recognition due, that here was enacted a part of the great drama which has given us "A government of the people, for the people and by the people."

## THE TITLE

chosen for this day, "Washington's Headquarters and the Revolutionary Army at Fredericksburgh, in the state of New York," September 19th to November 28th, 1778, may be at variance with your day,—Quaker hill day.

In defense I plead,

"Up and down the village streets  
Strange are the forms my fancies meets,  
For the thoughts and things of to-day are  
hid,  
And through the veil of a closed lid  
The ancient worthies I see again."

The official orders, the letters, the correspondence, designate Fredericksburgh or Camp near, with few exceptions.

Investigation leads to the conclusion that up and down this valley and along the hillsides thereof, the army was encamped. Patterson, Pawling and Quaker Hill, whatever distinction and honor there may be, each have an equal share.

## WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS.

One of the local writers has declared the controversy in regard to Washington's Headquarters in Pawling, 1778, has reached the stage where facts are essential.

It is not the purpose to paint a picture nor destroy, but to build up and establish local events of the Revolution in this vicinity and to make them authoritative and historical truths. Some of the facts will be presented.

Philip Smith, in his excellent and valuable history of Dutchess County, makes the statement: "As to the precise location of General Washington's Headquarters in this town (Pawling) there seems to be some question. Some locate it at the Slocum place, and others at the Kirby House, at the foot of Quaker hill. There appears to be good authority for each opinion." No authority is presented except local tradition based upon statements made, cherished, treasured and repeated from generation to generation.

The location of the headquarters as related and transmitted in the tradition of the Ferris family there is great respect. It is worthy of credence. Other incidents of the Revolution in this vicinity are founded upon just such statements in other families whose correctness can hardly be questioned.

Admitting that the Headquarters were

at the Ferris place, we must depend upon the traditional history of the family and of others, that Washington established and maintained headquarters at Reed Ferris's.

Mrs. Lossing, in her letter to Mr. Smith, states: "The sojourn of the Commander-in-chief in the community must have been a matter of moment. Everybody knew it, and the house that gave him shelter was a marked one. It is a question of the force of a document, the testimony of a single individual, subject to the vicissitude of error, prejudice and misconception as against the testimony of many."

The argument to sustain the contention that the headquarters were at the Ferris house.

In presenting the facts the matter does not rest upon the force of a single document nor upon the testimony of a single individual. There is no error nor misconception. A most exhaustive search and an extensive correspondence with the descendants of the men of the Revolution who were in this vicinity fails to discover a single document or record mentioning or describing the house of Reed Ferris as the headquarters of Washington. The nearest approach to record evidence states: "We left Fredericksburgh and after thirteen miles march, we pitched out tents at Mr. Reed's field in the Oblong." This account was made by one of Washington's Life Guards on the 19th of September. The march for that day probably started near the Westchester County line. If we can interpret Mr. Reed to mean Reed Ferris

then the life guard was probably near the person of the Commander-in-chief, and the headquarters.

The trial of General Schuyler, the important event during the occupation and the stay of the Army in this locality, affords another supposition and possible authority.

The order for the General Court-martial to meet was issued September 23rd, and reads: "The General Court-martial, whereof Maj. Gen'l Lincoln is President, will meet next Monday at Gen'l Lincoln's quarters, near Quaker Hill, where headquarters are at present." On the 30th this order was repeated and enlarged and reads: "The General Court-martial, whereof Maj. Gen'l Lincoln is President, will assemble to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock at the President's quarters and sit at such place as he shall appoint for the trial of Maj. Gen'l Schuyler. Col. Johnson is appointed member of the Court, vice Col. Wyllis, who is sick. All evidences and persons concerned will attend."

Lossing, in his life of General Schuyler, p. 314, states: "Months passed away before the Court-martial assembled. It was finally convened on the 1st day of October, 1778, at the house of Reed Ferris, yet standing in the town of Pawling, Dutchess Co., N. Y., near Quaker Hill, where Washington had his headquarters, and which he had just evacuated. There General Schuyler was put on trial." I am unable to determine the authority of Mr. Lossing. Every repository that might have the original papers has been consulted. No evidence

has been found of them. If General Lincoln designated any place, no record exists where. His authority appears to have no documentary evidence.

The question arises, if Washington did occupy the house of Reed Ferris, how long was he there? The order for the army to march was issued at White Plains, September 15th. It put the army in motion on the morning of the 16th towards Fredericksburg, at which place it probably arrived during the 19th. Washington proceeded by the river route, visited the forts and passed through Fishkill on the 20th for Fredericksburg, at which place he may have arrived the same day. Whether at this particular time or not, a tradition exists, that he once slept in the house on the farm, known since as the Benjamin place, the place where I was born. It may be possible that he did not arrive until the 21st or 22d. His first letter is dated the 22d and his first order the 23d, indicating he did not arrive much earlier than the 22d.

The Life Guards arrived the 19th at Mr. Reed's field, remained six days, and then moved to the headquarters afterwards maintained. Lossing says, "*where he had his headquarters, and which he had just evacuated.*" Schuyler's trial began on October 1st. On the 1st day of October, the headquarters were not at the place of the trial, they were at some other place. If Washington came on the 20th, he left Fredericksburg, went to Fishkill on the 30th. We have then ten days he was at the Ferris house. The movement of the

Life Guards took place on the 25th and with them the headquarters, leaving in the meantime but six days intervening, covering all the time that Washington may have occupied the Ferris house. At the best, Washington's stay at the house of Reed Ferris was of but short duration, and whatever honor and distinction there may be must be confined to such time.

### AT JOHN KANE'S.

That no better remembrance remains of the Headquarters at John Kane's is neither surprising nor strange. It must be remembered he was a large land holder and the possessor of other property to a large amount. With him, like many others similarly situated, property possession was greater than patriotic purpose. It is more than probable he had no faith in the success of the patriot's cause. It was neither prudent, safe or politic to espouse it. Remaining loyal to the British Crown, the circumstances of war brought severe penalty, the loss of property, dispossession, forfeiture and removal.

Should he have or hold but the bitterest recollection of the occupancy of his premises as the headquarters of the American General? It is an accepted truth, the loss of property makes the strongest, surest and the most lasting of enemies.

Neither he nor his descendants would have the slightest interest or pride to maintain or perpetuate an event which had brought them dire disaster, except that of

hatred. No wonder, then, that so little has been retained. Whatever remains comes from others and not from him.

The documentary proof is ample and sufficient to establish the headquarters at John Kane's.

First: Letter of Gov. Clinton to Robert R. Livingston, dated at Poughkeepsie, 23d Sept., 1778. Clinton Papers, Vol. 4, p. 77. "The army has left the Plains and are now posted along the mountains from Danbury to West Point. Headquarters at John Kane's at Fredericksburg, for which place General Washington, after having the forts, passed through Fishkill on Sunday last" (20th Sept., 1778).

Second: Elijah Fisher's Journal, 1775-1784, p. 10, 25th Sept.: "Headquarters and likewise the guard left Oblong and come to Mr. Cains in Fredrexburg four miles and pitched tents." 30th: "His Excellency, with his addecamps went to the Fishkills." 8th Oct.: "His Exelency and addecamp returned from Fishkills to Mr. Cains."

Third: Washington's Order Book, Oct. 22nd: Nixons, Huntingtons and Parsons Brigade are to march to-morrow morning from the left under command of Maj. Gen'l McDougall. The Quartermaster General will give the route. Order repeated in the Division orders, Gen'l McDougall's order book.

Orders of March, Oct. 22nd:

"The Rout will be by Headquarters to Col. Morehouses, then to Deacon Gaylords, from thence to Shawan River through New



Milford, then to Southington Meeting house and last to Farmington."

Division orders, McDougall's order book, Oct. 22nd. Order of march:

"Gen'l Nixon's Brigade leads. Huntington's follows and Parson's brings up the rear. Nixon will throw out a vanguard. Parson and Huntington will furnish a rear guard.

"As there is no forage between this and Deacon Gaylord's, the General desires the troops will be in motion as early as possible.

"The two Connecticut Brigades will halt at the Cross Road near headquarters to let Gen'l Nixon's Brigade pass by them. The Route will be by Headquarters to Col. Morehouses then to Deacon Gaylord, repeating the continuance of the Route already given."

Fourth: Gen'l Rufus Putnam in a letter to Washington, Oct. 15th, reporting the most feasible and convenient halting places on the route to Boston, furnishes this description: "From the Park by Headquarters to Deacon Gailers, 13 miles. On this route the road is very good. 20 miles to New Milford. The hills very few and easy of ascent."

Fifth: The maps, whose accuracy and authenticity is supported by the prevailing system of roads.

Sixth: The letter (Boardman letter) read before the Quaker Hill conference, 1901.

Seventh: The Sarah Morris' letter recently quoted and printed.

Eighth: The payment of cash to John Keene for the use of his house, etc.

Clinton, in giving the location of the troops, is in accordance with the facts. The system of correspondence in vogue, the means of conveying information rapidly for the time, it is improbable that Gov. Clinton could have been mistaken.

The Fisher Journal quoted as authority by others, kept by one who belonged to Washington's Life Guard, it is not hardly possible that he could have been mistaken in his knowledge of the movements of his General, or where the Headquarters were.

The order directing the march of General McDougall towards Boston leaves no doubt of the direction taken and traveled.

The letter of Gen'l Rufus Putnam, describing the route, and in that letter informing Washington that if he had received his letter sooner, he would have been more particular, but the report then made he considered sufficiently accurate and would prove no material detriment to the service.

The maps hardly admit of a question that the maker of them had definite and personal knowledge of their courses and direction, the locations, prominent features and habitations then existing.

The letters of Boardman and Morris of such date, no deposition can be maintained against their truthfulness.

The entry in the expense book correctly given, admits of no question as to use.

These authorities are sufficient, ample and conclusive to prove and set at rest, the location of the Headquarters of Washington at

Fredericksburg from Sept. 25th to Nov. 28th, 1778, at John Kane's and at no other place.

### COMMAND OF THE ARMY.

Orders were issued Sept. 7th, "For the present and until circumstances will admit of a more perfect arrangement, the Army is to be divided and commanded as follows:

Woodford's, Muhlenberg's and Scott's Brigades by Maj. Gen'l Putnam.

Poor's late Learned's and Patterson's by Maj. Gen'l Gates.

Parson's and Huntington's by Maj. Gen'l Lincoln.

Smallwood's and 2nd Maryland by Maj. Gen'l DeKalb.

Nixon's and the North Carolina Brigade by Maj. Gen'l McDougall. The strength of the Army shown by the returns of the Grand Army, under command of General Washington, dated at Fredericksburg, Nov. 1st, 1778, and Nov. 15th, 1778, show the total of officers and men fit for duty on these dates to have been 13,461 and 13,366 respectively.

### MOVEMENTS OF THE ARMY.

When the American Army went into winter quarters at Valley Forge, the cause of American Independence was at a low ebb. Naked, barefooted, pinched with hunger, it wanted everything to make it an ideal army except indomitable courage and inflexible purpose. These it had.

The poverty and distress of the memorable winter was not so much due to the

poverty of the Country as to the inefficiency of the Commissary and Quartermaster departments, and to the inattention and interference of Congress. Yet with all of its privations, when the news of the French Alliance was heralded, it was a day of jubilee, as if for some victory, although the pomp and circumstance of war was wanting. A Council of War was called May 8th to determine future operations, whether it was expedient to take the field or act on the defensive. Taking into consideration the strength of the enemy and the available force of the American Army, the Council decided not to engage in any offensive operations. Not long to wait, however, before events changed the aspect of affairs. The British evacuating Philadelphia, Washington, on learning the facts, put his Army in motion, came up with the British and fought the Battle of Monmouth the 28th of June, rested his Army and on the 2nd of July, began his march northward and arrived in the vicinity of White Plains on the 24th of July, to remain until the march to Fredericksburg began the morning of the 16th of September.

First mention of troops at Fredericksburg is found in the Brigade Orders for Gen'l Parson's brigade, dated at camp:

Fredericksburg, July 22nd, 1777. The officers were instructed to take particular care that no injury was done under the pretense of their being enemies to the cause, that there be no complaint on the march or in camp, of fences being destroyed or damage done. The detail for the day were or-

dered "To parade to-morrow at one o'clock at ye Church with three days' provisions."

The orders of the 23rd detailed the duties of the day, provided for a guard from each regiment, to prevent the horses and oxen from being stolen or breaking into enclosures, and doing unnecessary damage, "the unavoidable destruction of an army in its progress is but too great without the additional evil of criminal negligence for wanton depredations."

Putnam's general orders.

Parson's brigade was ordered to return to its old camping ground near Peekskill, this position on the 10th of July was on the left, between headquarters and Col. Drakes, probably remaining in Fredericksburg only a few days, as the Brigades on the 27th of July were ordered "to be thoroughly equipped and to hold themselves in readiness to march at the shortest notice."

No other movement of the troops occurred except that of the militia, until the arrival of the Continental Troops, which probably occurred on the 19th of September. While the orders for the day of Nov. 25th concludes with, "The Army marching by Brigades into winter quarters," it was not until the 30th of November that Gen'l Parson left Fredericksburgh for winter quarters at Redding. After this no considerable body of troops remained at Fredericksburgh.

## THE ORDER OF MARCH.

The order of march to Fredericksburgh was issued at White Plains, Sept. 15, 1778, and designated after orders.

1st: The whole army will march to-morrow morning at seven o'clock. The General will beat at five, the troop at six and the march at seven precisely.

2nd: The baggage will precede the troops the first day. Provisions and forage wagons going in the front.

3rd: The Park of Artillery will march with the second line between Parson's and Clinton's Brigades.

4th: The Commander-in-chief's baggage, with the baggage of all the General Staff and Flying Hospital are also to march with the second line in the order, which will be particularly pointed out by the Quartermaster General.

5th: The Quartermaster General and Commissary General will divide the stores in their respective departments to the several columns which will lead the columns of baggage.

6th: Col. Sheldon, with all the cavalry on the east side of the North River will join Gen'l Scott.

7th: The Quartermaster General will give the particular order of march to be observed by each division.

8th: The troops are to be furnished with three days bread."

The Order of the Day concluding with "The Army marching by Divisions to Fredericksburg, &c."

Diligent search and correspondence fails

to discover the particular Order of March. Only by inference, the route is located, from Col. Chambers orderly book, and reference in the Fisher Journal. On the 16th at Wright's Mills, the 18th at Bedford and at the Reynold's house, the 19th Hayet's in Cortland Manor, the 20th Fowler's house. Orders of Lord Sterling, these places, probably his headquarters during the march. The Life Guards marched from White Plains to Mr. Raymond's in Bedford, 16 miles, the 16th. Fifteen miles the 18th and reached Fredericksburgh, this probably was the precinct of, and on the 19th, thirteen miles to "Reed's field in the Oblong."

## THE REASON WHY.

While Washington entertained the view that the enemy had two capital objects in contemplation, and the possible results, his letter to the President of Congress, dated at White Plains, Sept. 13th, 1778, affords the best possible motive, placing the Army at Fredericksburgh.

"In consequence of this (British devastation in the vicinity of Bedford) and from an apprehension that General Clinton might possibly mean to operate to the eastward, and from some project in concert with Lord Howe against Count d'Estaing's Squadron, I determined to move the troops from this ground to a rear position, better calculated to afford support to the works on the North River in case of an attempt should be made against them, and at the same time more convenient for forwarding detachments

eastward, if the enemy point their operations that way.

"I was the more induced to come to this determination as most of the accounts from New York seem to lead to a belief, as they still do, that a considerable movement was and is in contemplation, if not an entire evacuation of the city, and this by water.

"Besides these reasons the principal objects for taking post here do not now exist. One was to create every possible jealousy in favor of the expedition against Rhode Island, another the consuming of the forage within its vicinity and towards King's bridge. The former is now over, and the latter is in a great degree accomplished."

#### THE ARMY WHERE ENCAMPED.

In a general way, the location is largely traditional.

The marching orders to Nixon, Huntington and Parsons, they were south of the headquarters, the artillery on the farm, now belonging to Peter Baldwin.

Four Brigades were upon the farm of Thos. Menzies. Evidences found and related by the late Riley Turner, troops were on the farm of Col. Henry Ludington, and in this vicinity as stated by local historians. While it is more than probable, every location named on the maps was occupied by the officers and others attached to the army. No other conclusion seems possible.



## SUBSISTENCE OF THE ARMY.

No question gave Washington greater concern than the subsisting of the Army. It was one of the first to have consideration at Fredericksburg.

To Vice-President George Bryan, he wrote: "The important article of forage, the great difficulty in obtaining, owing to the reluctance of the holders to part with it, the exorbitant and enormous prices they demand for it, unless some means are provided to obtain it with more certainty and at more moderate prices, it will be impossible for it (the army) to exist long, while this condition existed. Another reason existed for the scanty supply, the absence of the militia prevented threshing, while the better disposed of the farmers were willing to sell, if it were not for the fact their more avaricious neighbors would obtain higher prices, unwilling to lose any advantage experience had taught them, by withholding their commodities from the market." The use of wheat had been prohibited by Congress and the restrictive laws of the States rendered it impossible to obtain a sufficient supply unless further aid was invoked, the Quartermaster General notwithstanding, we see the country full of forage, he wrote Washington, "he was under the necessity to call for a warrant to impress such quantities as he found deficient."

The warrant was issued the 20th of November, authorizing the Commissary of Forage to impress the amount necessary from the inhabitants in the vicinity of camp, on the borders of Connecticut and on the

route through the Jerseys, and to pay the established price. The orders were to take an equal share from each farm and to take care not to insult or injure the inhabitants.

### CONDITION OF THE ARMY.

Putnam, who had been relieved of his command pending the inquiry who was responsible for the loss of the forts on the Hudson, was restored. Humphrey, his biographer, says: "This was soon after the Battle of Monmouth. When the three armies, which last year had acted separately joined at White Plains, our effective force in one camp was at no other time so respectable as at this juncture." General Parsons wrote his friend Mumford: "To the immortal honor of Great Britain, she has expended nearly 30 millions sterling, wasted her best blood, transported a greater army than ever before passed the Atlantic, in three campaigns conquered the capitals of five States, fought ten battles, lost one army prisoner, another by death, and at the opening of the fourth campaign may secure a City strongly fortified sufficient to cover 20,000 men from immediate destruction. The army is now united. \* \* \* I assure you it would afford you great satisfaction to see them and compare their situation with two years ago in this place." "A marvelous change, and is to be ascribed to that Just Being who directs all events."

Baron Steubens to President Laurens, dated at Fredericksburgh: "Let us now drop this subject (Inspection of the Army) and examine the present situation of our

Military Affairs. Do not suffer yourself to be dazzled by the accounts of the strength of our Regiments and Brigades. At least a third of them are unable to suffer the fatigue of a march in this season when the nights begin to grow cold and damp, and, that for the want of clothes, even shoes and stocking. I don't fear displeasing you by laying the naked truth before your eyes, on the contrary, I think it my duty not to suffer you to be ignorant of the true state of our Army."

Gen'l Wayne to Rob't Morris, Oct. 5, 1778:

"I wish with you it had been in your power, to give full satisfaction to our poor worthy fellows, the articles of clothing—their distresses are great," and to the officers, "They seem desirous of catching any pretext for quitting the service which has or soon will reduce them to beggary and want."

The relief. "The General is deeply sensible of the sufferings of the Army, he leaves no expedient unassayed to relieve them and he is persuaded Congress and the several Stats are doing everything in their power for the same purpose."

### PUNISHMENTS.\*

Many no doubt will be surprised to know how severe and stern was the martial law during the Revolution and with what severity its penalties were inflicted.

One hundred lashes on the bare back

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\* Bolton's Private Soldier.

well laid on, stood for the penalty next to death penalty. Yet upon the sullen and wilful transgressor it made but little impression. One instance is given. Two soldiers in March, 1778, were sentenced to one hundred lashes each, fifty per day, and one of them to be well washed with salt, when he had received his last fifty.

Five were whipped at Fredericksburgh. One hung, and others reprimanded and discharged from service.

These penalties were not due to the sternness of the times, they were the British Code, and prevailed from the Provincial Armies into those of the Revolution. It was not the season to try experiments, when every sinew of discipline and efficiency was strained to the utmost.

## COUNCILS OF WAR.

Previous to the march to Fredericksburg, two councils of war were held, one the 25th of July, 1778, at Reuben Wrights, near White Plains, and the other September 1st, 1778, at White Plains. The third Council of War was assembled at Fredericksburg 16th of October, 1778.

Washington, who had been waiting impatiently for the movements of the enemy, that he might ascertain their intention, addressed a circular letter October 14th, to Putnam, Stirling, DeKalb, Clinton, Woodford and Muhlenberg containing the main propositions to be considered, and these were, "the security of the army, the protection of the country, the support of important posts, the relation which ought to be

preserved with the French fleet, the main questions to be decided, whether the Army should be kept in a collected state and where, whether it should be distributed into cantonments and in what manner and places, and how soon it shall enter into quarters and what precautions shall be used with respect to covering provisions and forage."

The same questions were submitted to the Council on the 16th and requested the advice of the officers present, Maj. Gen'l's Gates, Greene, DeKalb, McDougall, Steuben, Brig. Gen'l's Nixon, Parsons, Smallwood, Knox, Patterson, Wayne and Hand. Written opinions were returned.

The Quartermaster General, Gen'l Greene, desired to know the intentions of Washington in order to enable him to make necessary preparation, was informed "That upon full consideration of the subject and a comparison of the opinions of the General Officers upon cantoning the Army for the winter, I am led to fix upon three places, Danbury, West Point and its vicinities upon both sides of the river, and Middlebrook in Jersey. Washington's letter of the 27th of November to the President of Congress, contains the final disposition and the following last order issued at Fredericksburgh, the movement is, the "Army marching by Brigade into winter quarters."

One of the interesting Journals of the Revolution, the only one found containing a record of occurrences here, bears this title:

“Elijah Fisher’s Book.”

“Wherein is a memorandum of his Travels and Preseedings of Events that was worthy a Remark that has not slipt Memory Since May, 1775, until now.”

Sylvester, Feb. 4, 1784.

He was a member of Washington’s Life Guard. His Journal was printed in Augusta, Maine, 1880.

The events recorded in many instances are found in accordance with official records.

ELIJAH FISHER’S JOURNAL.

1775-1784.

Sept. 16, 1778, p. 9:

“We left the White Plains and Marching through North Castel and after sixteen miles March we came to Mr. Rage-mand in Bedford.

18th:

We left Bedford and Marched and came to Fredrexburg after the March of fifteen miles and Pitched our tents.

Page 10, the 19th:

We left Fredericksburg and after thirteen miles march we pitched our tents at Mr. Reed’s field in oblong.

The 25th:

Head Quarters and likewise the guard left Oblong and come to Mr. Cain’s in Fredrexburg four miles and pitched tents.

The 20th:

A large Detachment under Command of Gen. Lord Stirling Marched for the Jar-seys, Capt. Levenston his adde Camp.

The 30th :

His Excellency with his adde camps went to the FishKills.

October 1st:

I had a pass for five Days to go to New Milford (Mr. N. Fisher) to see a relation of mine.

The 5th :

As I was returning from New Milford Missed my way which Detained me.

The 6th :

I returned and Jines the guard again and at my Return I finds an alteration in the Dress of my Mates. I asked one of them, I Herrick, it Seams as though there had been an Alteration Since I had been gone. He said, that he had that Money sent to him that he sent for (Now I know that he had Sent for Som Money from his father) I said I was glad off it for I hoped we Should not be so puttout for money to bye things with now and that you now will be able to pay me that trifill you owe me (Sixteen Dollars) he said he hoped he Should.

Presently in comes one or two more I said have you had money Sent you from home too I fear that you have taken some other way to git it than that. then Harrick Said as, I. Herrin was out after things for the Genarl's Famely (now Herrin was one that was sent after to bye things for the Genarl's Family and he had a horse and a pass to go where he Could git such things as wanted for the Genral's Famely) he Come to an old Tory's house and they would not Let him have anything and he

See Several things that he wanted so when he Come home he gos and to his Messmates and takes them and they gos and robed him of Several things. I said that whether he was a tory or not If it should be found out (which such things as Robery Seldim is) Some or all of you will be hung Which Surprisd them very much but there was no more heard about it.

The 8th:

His Exelency and Addecamp returned from Fishkill to Mr. Cane's.

Page 10, the 17th:

In Remembrance of Gen Burgoins De-feet the Day was Selebrated with the firing of Canon and in throing of Skilokets in the are thirteen was fired then they begun to through the skilolets and a merry Day they hadd too at the Park of Artillery. At night Some of the Guard was a going to the park, Col Harrisons waiter was a coming from there under way, run over one of them, which hurt him so that he died the Same Night.

The 18th:

John Lovjoy the man that was killed by the horse was Desently Burried. There was them four that was Said that Robed the Tory brought to an Examination viz John Herron, John Herrick, Moses Walton and Elias Brown. The Same day John Strogdal one of the Guard was to Mr. Howlens and he was a telling him how that he had been Robed So and So at Such a time and that the liver that the men had on that Robed him was a round hatter with a piece of Bare Skin on it but they ware all blacked



and that he had made Enquirey through the army but Could not find any that wore such hats but the guard asked him if he had seen any of the guard more fuller of money than usual he said he did not Know but he had but Did not know how they Come by it. The man said that he did not want any hurt upon his account for he Knew that they would be hung if they were found out and told Stogdal that if he would find the things and put them where he mite find them he would say no more about it. Stogdal gos home to the guard and was Consulting with one of his messmates about it for they had Destroyed a Part of the things and if they did anything about it it would bring it all out. In the meen while there Come Mr. Howage to the officers of the guard on Suspicion that Some one had Robed him (for they Robed one on Friday Night and the other on Monday Night) and as they was a talking about it one of the waiters Come and Told them that Strogdal knew Something about them. He was Called and Exemend but he tryed to hide what he could but they told him that if he Did not tell all he Knew about it he would be taken up on Suspicion and fare acordingly then he thought it would be known and if he Did not tell about it What he knew it would bring him into Difficulty so he up and tells all that he knew Consarning the affare then they Sends an Confined Herick and Brown and Sends Sarjt. Harris with two Lite horse men into the Country after Walton that was not well and he was abed and asleep and they tells the wooman

that they wanted a Candle and so they gos up Chamber and Stands over him with there SWORDS drawn in there hands and awakes him and told him he was there prisoner and he gits up and had a pare of Dearskin Breeches that they got to Mr. Howlens So they feches him to the gard and Confinds him with the others and Herrin was out and having a general pass they were afrade that he would hear of it So they Sends to a place where he Did Sometimes Reside but he being not there they Returned.

The 19th:

The next morning Leut Livinstone was to the Park of Artilery (Herrin in his return from the Country Come by there) Sends a man with him for fear he would make his Escape So he was garded to Head Quarters and Confind with the others. The same Day they was Examend and Herrick Said that he was loth to go after they had Set out and Gon a little way he would fane have had them gon back but they told him that if he did not go that they would Despach him for they would not have him Enform against them So he was obliged to go So he turned States Evedence against the others So after Examination was found guilty and what things that Could be found that they had not Desposed of was Restored to them again that they belonged too and where they had Payd any Dets they was obliged to Restore it to them again and they to the ones they got it from, then the Same day they was all sent to the purvey guard.

The 22nd:

They all had ther Tryel and Herrin, Walton and Brown was sentenst to be hung and Herrick to have a Hundred Lashes. Walton made his escape from the purvey gard and Herrin was hung at FishKills and Brown made his escape from the gard that was sent to gard him to the Place of Execusion to New Milford to the part of the army that lay there. Herrick was carried to Fredrixburg and had a hundred Lashes.

The 23rd:

Gen. Patison's, Gen. Huntington's and Gen. Nixon's Brigades Marched to Hartford save Col. Parson's Reg't that went onward.

The 24th:

The Gard Marcht down to Fredrexburg to see a man hung for Robing he was Executed at Eleven in the fournoon, Thomas Glover by Name and there was five Whipt One Hundred lashes apease all Save one for Robing two of them belonged to the Gard, viz. John Harrick and Joseph Timberlake was for Striking an Officer.

The 25th:

The Pensylvania Troops Marcht for the Jarseys.

The 26th:

Gen. Nocks Parke of Artilery Marched for the Jarseys.

Nov. 28th:

His Exelency and also his Gard left

Fredericksburg and Marched for the Jar-says and at Night we Pitcht our tents by Clane's Tavern in Philipespatten after a March of Sixteen Miles."

NOTE—Sept. 16th to Nov. 28th, Elijah Fisher's Journal. Pages 9 to 11.

## KNOWLEDGE OF THE COUNTRY.

Washington's knowledge of the country was as definite and accurate as possible to obtain except by personal inspection.

During the summer of 1778, while the Army lay at White Plains, Rufus Putnam reconnoitered the country about Fredricksburgh and Quaker hill, and made sketches and plans for use, and, after, completing examination of the roads and passes toward Boston and reporting to McDougall, he was ordered to continue his examination and to report his observations direct to Washington.

When it was suggested to Congress that the Army should have a good Geographer "to survey the roads and make sketches of the country where the Army is to act, while extremely useful and might be attended with valuable results," Washington's recommendation of Erskine was urged, "because he is thoroughly skilled in his business, has already assisted us in making maps of the Country." After the death of Erskine, in recommending DeWitt "Who being in the department gives him a pretension and his abilities are still better, and from whot I have seen of his performances, he seems to be extremely well qualified," leaves no doubt that these men had certain and particular knowledg of this section, and Washington acted upon the knowledge they imparted.

Letter in Public Library, N. Y., Col. Hamilton to Lord Stirling, Sept. 20th.

## THE QUAKER HILL HOSPITAL.

Whatever description and history there may be of the Quaker Hill Church, as a church, there is but little of record as a hospital. The historians have treated only in a general way, the medical department of the Revolution. This is particularly true of the Quaker Hill Hospital. The record and pension office of the War Department states: "An exhaustive search of the Revolutionary war records in this office have resulted in failure to find any information relative to the Quaker Hill Hospital, Dutchess Co., N. Y., Revolutionary War."

The only official record is that of Washington's order, Oct. 16th: "No more sick to be sent to the Hospital at Quaker Hill, without first inquiring of the Chief Surgeon there whether they can be received, as the house is already full." This order was repeated the same day in McDougall's division orders.

The conditions existing, the prejudices prevailing, and the probable number in the hospital, Dr. Fallon's letter to Gov. Clinton, furnishes the only account known to exist. "Out of the 100 sick, Providence took but three of my people off since I came here, which was far from the case before my arrival." On the occasion of the arrival of Col. Palfrey, the Paymaster General, at Boston from Fredericksburgh; General Gates writing to Gen'l Sullivan: "I am shocked at our poor fellows being still en-







camped and falling sick by the hundreds.”

The death list: Out of the oblivion of the past but four names have been found: John Morgan, Capt. James Grier's Co., died at Quaker Hill Hospital Oct. 19, 1777.(?)

Alexander Robert, Capt. Geo. Calhoun's Co., 4th Pa., Nov. 6, 1778.

James Tryer, Capt. James Lang's Co., 5th Pa., Oct. 22, 1778.

Peter King, 1st Pa., enlisted 1777, Quaker Hill Hospital, N. J.,(?) 1778 (no such hospital).

Some doubt may exist as to two of these, but as the hospital is named, an error may exist in copying the original record. Let us believe they died here and lie buried in the opposite premises, unknown and in nameless graves, companions of the untold number. Lest we forget, let us remember that these heroes died for liberty, that they died for us. They sleep in the land they made free under the flag they created, the stainless emblem that has not gone down to defeat. They sleep beneath the shadows of the clouds regardless of the sunshine or storm, unmindful of the Joy of Victory are the Shadow of Sorrow or defeat. Let us remember that the mother gave her son, the wife her husband, the betrothed her beloved, that the conquering leader lives in history, the conquering soldier sleeps, nameless. They were engaged in a great conflict, it had mighty sorrows, it had its unuttered joys. This nation stands for the right and truth. It has had its conflicts, its sacrifices, and its triumphs. Let us then erect to these men and their unknown com-

panions, a memorial that shall remind us of their sacrifices, their services and the consequence to mankind, and let it be engraved with a pen of iron in the rock, that it may endure forever.

## WASHINGTON'S ORDERLY BOOK

Covering the period when he was in this section is in the Library of Congress and is described in the Calendar of Washington Manuscripts, p. 47, as follows:

1778. Washington, George, General and Commander in Chief. Orderly Book 1778 Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 1778 Containing the "Orders issued by his Excellency, General Washington. Anno Domini 1778 Copied by Capt. John Singer Dexter A(ssistant) A(djutant) G(eneral)" Exd by Alex'd Scammell A(djutant) G(eneral)" 1 Vol. Fo. pp. 439, 21 Indexed.

I have a verified copy of pp. 372 to 419 inclusive, dated Sept. 15 to Nov. 25, 1778. The first order is dated at Hdqrs. at White Plains Sept. 15th. The last at Fredericksburgh, dated Wednesday, Nov. 25th, 1778. The orders include the order to March to Fredericksburgh, the determination of rank, Court-martials, promotions, dismissals from the service, the infliction of the death penalty, the celebration of the Surrender of Burgoyne, Pardons, executions, reprimands, notice of a drawing of the U. S. Lottery and other interesting items. Among them, the order of the 20th of October, a most interesting one, is quoted indicating the char-

acter and purity of Washington. "Purity of Morals being the only sure foundation of publick happiness in any Country and highly conducive to order, subordination and success in an Army, it will be well worthy the emulation of officers of any rank and class to encourage it both by the influence of example and the penalties of Authority. It is painful to see many shameful instances of Riot and Licentiousness among us. The wanton practice of swearing has risen to a most disgusting height. A regard for decency should conspire, with a sense of morality to vanish a vice productive of neither advantage or pleasure. The frequent robberies which have lately prevailed in the vicinity of Camp are truly alarming and demand the most vigilant exertion to detect the perpetrators and bring them to the severest punishment."

The order of Oct. 23rd contains the findings and sentences of the Court Martial convened on the 15th and are chiefly interesting to this section, as to the sentences imposed upon the soldiers. Hateevil Colson for robbing Reuben Crosby; Moses Walton, John Herring, Elias Brown for robbing Prince Howland, and John Herrick for robbing John Hoag. Herring and Walton to suffer death. Brown and Colson, one hundred lashes on the bare back well laid on."

"His Excellency, the Commander in chief approves these sentences. Shock at the frequent horrible villanies of this nature committed by the troops of late, he is determined to make examples which will deter

the boldest and most hardened offenders. Men who are called by their Country to defend the Rights and property of their fellow citizens, who are abandoned enough to violate those rights and plunder that property deserve, and shall receive no mercy."

## EXPENSE BOOK.

One of the Washington's papers in the possession of the Treasury Department is an expense book bearing the inscription: "Daily Expenses. Kept by Caleb Gibbs." Daily purchases of articles of food are the principal items. Few of the entires are amounts paid to individuals for other purposes.

In 1901, I made a personal examination of this book and made some extracts bearing upon the events and the time when Washington was here. Some doubt having been expressed that the items were incorrect, during the summer I have had another examination made by an expert, of the personal items confirming my examinations.

Item Nov. 17th. To Mr. Reed Ferris Account of the 25th Sept., '78, for articles had for the family's use as per bill £20 1s.

A liberal interpretation of this account in the absence of the bill, means some commodity, something tangible and measurable.

"Had for the family's use." The officers of a General's Staff immediately about his person are termed in military phrase, his family. It is not probable that Washington had his own immediate and personal family

here. These articles were for the use of Washington, his staff, his military and not personal family.

The rendering of the bill, the 25th Sept., the day the life guard states the headquarters left the Oblong and went to Mr. Kane's, terminated all transactions and severed all connections with Reed Ferris.

Item Nov. 28th. To Cash paid Mr. John Kane, for the use of his house, &c., 144 Dollars. £57 12s.

Washington left Fredericksburgh the morning of the 28th of November, this bill being paid the day of departure, can have the one construction only, that he had had the use and occupancy of the house of John Kane. It is not admissable, it could mean horse hire, as it has been stated, the return of horses Dec. 1st, 1778, Washington had for his and family use, 30 horses besides three teams for the family and guard, not including the horses belonging to the other officers of the Army who had their required number.

### THE 17TH OCTOBER.

The Colonists and the American Army had just cause to celebrate this day, designated by Washington as the "glorious Anniversary of the surrender of General Burgoyne and his troops to the Arms of America." This day, Dearborn in his Journal, states, "The Great Burgoyne with his whole army surrendered themselves prisoners of War, with all their Public Stores,

and after grounding their arms marched off for New England, the greatest conquest ever known."

Boardman tells us that there was a grand parade and festival, the tables were set under a long shade of green boughs, and when the general arrived, the spectators dismounted and took their stand outside of the assembly of officers, who joined in numerous parties in conversation for a long time before dinner was served."

Fisher in his Journal tells us, "in remembrance of Gen'l Burgoyne's defeat, the day was celebrated with the firing of cannon and the throwing of sky rockets . . ." "and a merry day they had too at the Park of Artillery."

The day was celebrated by the Division under Gen'l Bates at Danbury. Dearborn's Journal gives us a more particular account of this and from it we may judge what kind of a day, the merry day at Fredericksburgh was.

"17th. This being the first anniversary of the glorious 17th of October, 1777, the field officers of this Division make an entertainment for all the officers of the Division and gentlemen of the town. We eat dinner on a small hill between two of the brigades. After, the officers of the three brigades had assembled on the hill by marching in Divisions 13 in each. 13 cannon were discharged from each brigade at which time Gen'l Gates arrived with a number of other Gen'l Officers, there was then three cheers from the whole Division. At dinner we had about 350 Officers and other gentle-

men. After dinner there was 13 toasts drank and a cannon discharged for each. At evening, we retired to the town and spent the evening very agreeably.

18th. "We are getting sober."

## GENERAL WAYNE.

The State Historical Society of Pennsylvania controls the papers of Gen'l Wayne with a restriction, none to be given out until the Society itself is able to publish them. There are twenty-five or more letters besides other papers, written or dated at Fredericksburg. What they may contain, no information can be given. We are entirely without data of this ideal General of the Revolution, dated at and pertaining to Fredericksburgh. Early in the Revolution he maintained this idea of the soldier: "For the Colonel lays it down as a position that every soldier who neglects to appear as decent as the nature of his situation will admit, is unfit for gentlemen's company and is a coward. Soldiers are ever held in the light of gentlement and if it is the power of the Colonel, his people shall support that character." Pa. Archives, Vol. 10, p. 117. He insisted upon this, and his orders were while here that his men should be in the most soldierly manner possible. His headquarters were at the house of Benjamin Haviland. Here he summoned Henry and James Birdsell and William March to present their account of an assault upon them by some of the officers of this division.



These officers were arrested, tried by court-martial, who, complaining they were deprived of the benefit of Military law, he answered: "You certainly cannot be ignorant of the superior power of the Civil law over the Military. You have been guilty of exercising the Military law over the peaceable inhabitants of this State, the Governor demands you to be given up to the Civil power. It has never been deemed honorable for armed men to assault or wound unarmed men in any time whatever, but has been particularly reprobated in the Army."

When the Convention troops were on the march to Virginia, they were escorted to the state line by the militia. The Connecticut militia were unwilling to march further than the border. Col. Bland in command informed Washington of the possible delay. He ordered Wayne to send 500 men of his Command with the least possible delay to Sharon to meet and escort the Convention troops. Wayne with them, sent this message, "Dear Bland: I find that the Connecticut militia, *are militia, I send you soldiers*. Lieut. Col. Hay who commands is an Irishman and a soldier."

The division orders for Oct. 22 were for the whole of the troops to parade under arms Saturday morning. The commanding officers received the order of maneuvers for the day and are herewith given:

"The Division formed for charging will wheel by Platoons to the Left and march to the exercising grounds, the light Infantry in front formed in Platoons. The following words of Command will be given: *Form*



*Divisions, Close Column.* At all times when the column is marching to the points of view, the Lt. Infantry will advance and skirmish, ranging themselves 100 yards in front of the points of view, and retreat as the columns display. Display Columns. To the right face firing usual.

*"Forward, March, March, March, Charge Bayonets. Battl. Halt.* Two Volleys will be fired. *By platoons to the right wheel march. Form Division. Close Column.* The Column closes except 4 platoons on the left of the 1st Brigade and 4 Platoons on the left of the Second Brigade, who will remain in open order.

*"When marching to the points of view, the lead of the first and second Brigade Dresses with the lead of the first Brigade.*

*"Display Column to the right and left face.* The first Brigade Displays to the right, the four platoons of the first Brigade face to the right. March to the extremity of the Line, face to the left. *Close Column.* Wheel to the right and Display to the Right on the 4th Platoon. The 4 Platoons of the 2nd Brigade face to the left. March to the extremity of the Line, face to the Right, and wheel by Platoons to the Left. Firing by Battalions—By Brigades, by Divisions. When the firing ceases, the flanks wheel into Line. Forward, March, March, March. Charge Bayonets. Battalions Halt. To the Right about face, March, Halt, &c.

Fire by Divisions advancing.

Fire by half Battalions, Retreating.

M. RYAN,  
Major Inspector."

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE.

That there was no religious sentiment in the army would be a mistake. General, Division and Brigade orders attest to the statement.

Huntington orders, June 28, 1778, "while he had the fullest confidence in the ability and bravery of his officers and men, doubted not they would preserve a cool and determined spirit and confiding in the justice of their cause and in the God of Heaven, they would honor themselves and their Country."

McDougall with his division at rest near New Milford, 1778. "Let us not forget our God, who has appeared in numerous instances for us and America; let prayers be attended morning and evening at such hours as the Commanding Officers shall direct, the order to be continually observed while the division is encamped. Officers to set an example to the men by attending, and the guard to patrol the Camp to arrest such as shall be found creating any noise or disorder, to the dishonor of God."

Washington's order to observe the 22nd day of April, "that day had been set aside as a day of Fasting Humiliation and Prayer, that the righteous dispensation of Providence might be acknowledged and His goodness and mercy towards our army supplicated and implored, directed that the day should be most religiously observed." "We certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the dis-

tinguished Character of the Patriot it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished Character of Christian. The instances of Providential Goodness demand from us, the warmest gratitude and piety to the Supreme Author of all Good."

## WASHINGTON.

It is a question whether the eulogists of the Revolution have fully characterized the greatness of the man, Washington.

Do we sufficiently comprehend the attainments, the character and the wisdom of the man?

The patient and prayerful Washington at Valley Forge, the impetuous and wrathful Washington at Monmouth, the waiting and watching at Fredericksburgh, lead us to exclaim, the incomparable man.

"The changeless attitude and steadfast heart during the seven years of trouble and gloom which make up the history of the Revolution, will be the wonder until the end of time."

Here at Fredericksburgh, we see him approving the severest sentences and ordering their executions with an unyielding purpose, and yet, we find him tempering justice with mercy, in all instances. He was pleased to pardon a soldier of Gen'l Clinton's Brigade, who had been sentenced to be shot to death, pardoning and admonishing him that "The recent instances of the many criminals having been executed for breaches of military duty, which he hopes will not only deter

him but every other soldier of the Army from violating his solemn obligations."

His wonderful influence and magical power over men, stamped on the memory of Boardman, a picture that he saw and never forgot, "the greatest man of his or any other age."

Thatcher describing his personal appearance said "The serenity of his countenance, and majestic gracefulness of his deportment, impart a strong impression of that dignity and grandeur which are his peculiar characteristics, and no one can stand in his presence without feeling the ascendancy of his mind and associating with his countenance the idea of wisdom, philanthropy, magnanimity and patriotism."

How the different classes of people regarded him may be told in brief extracts from two letters recently published. One, Letter of Peter Colton, "When he sees me standing by the door, what do you suppose he did. There came over his face one of them smiles of his, like the sun breaking through the clouds on a wintry day, and he slips up and shakes my hand and he says, Why here's my old sargeant. And is this your boy, a Fine lad, says he. What is his Nems. George Washington Colton, says I, as proud as a Peacock . . . and yet there is some sneaks who ought to be on the gallows, that says that George Washington is cold and haughty and has no heed for the common people."

The other letter, Enoch Day, "He is treacherous in private Friendship, a hypocrite in public life, and the world will be

puzzled to know whether he is an Apostate or an Imposter. Whether he has abandoned his principles or whether he ever had any . . . It will be a happy day for the country, when G. Washington, Charlatan, political trickster, Apostate and coward, is removed from our midst."

Letters written on the occasion when Washington came to Springfield, 1789.

He had a clear comprehension of the struggle for independence the difficulties and hardships to be encountered and experienced, for he says: "We began a contest for Liberty and Independence, ill provided with the means of war, relying on our patriotism to supply the deficiencies.

"We expected to encounter many difficulties, wants and distresses and we should neither shrink from them when they happen, nor fly in the face of Law and Government to procure redress . . ." "Ours is a kind of struggle designated I dare say by Providence to try the patience, fortitude and virtue of men. None who engage in it will suffer himself, I trust, to sink under difficulties or be discouraged by hardships."

## NEW YORK IN THE REVOLUTION.

It was not until the 20th of April, 1777, that New York declared itself. Then the Representatives in convention assembled, resolved, "That reasons assigned by the Continental Congress, were cogent and conclusive . . ." "and will at the risk of our lives and fortunes join with the other colonies in supporting it." Satisfaction with

the state of affairs as they were, the security of property, were among the potent factors that held New York, and yet, while the historians have until recently held, that she did not furnish only about 18,000 men, it has been found that nearly 44,000 men were in the service. In patriotism, New York was second to none, and acted promptly upon the recommendations made by the Provincial Congress of New York and the Continental Congress.

The first Continental Congress adopted a policy of non-interference, recommended that committees be appointed in every province, county and town to sign the association that was drawn up and to be enforced as vigorously as possible. Subscribers to the Dutchess County Proceedings under date of Jan. 18, 1775, declared that our Sovereign Lord, King George, was the only Sovereign to whom British Americans can, could or ought to owe and bear true and faithful allegiance, and they would when called upon, enforce obedience to the authority of King George the 3rd. (Signed by a number of inhabitants of Dutchess Co.)

The pledge adopted after the Battle of Lexington, signed in several precincts of Dutchess Co., declared, "We will in all things follow the advice of our General Committee . . . for the preservation of peace, and good order and the safety of individuals and property."

The Archives of the State do not contain any record of any signers from the Fredericksburgh and Pawling precincts.

The Misses Patterson of Patterson have an original pledge signed by Matthew Patterson, Joseph Chandler, Comfort Ludington, Reuben Miers(?), James Dickenson, Jr., Josiah Bennett, Malcolm Morrison, Alex Kidd, Henry Ludington, Elijah Oakley, William Calkin, David Atkins, Stephen Baxter.

Some of these adhered to their allegiance to the British Crown, and the others rendered meritorious service in the War of the Revolution.

### OBLIGATIONS.

I am under great obligation to the Librarians of the Public Libraries of New York and Boston, to Mr. Bolton of the Athenæum of Boston, the Librarians of the following Historical Societies: New York, Long Island, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania; the Washington Papers in the Library of Congress, the Pennsylvania Archives and various publications and other sources of information too numerous to mention, containing much of interest, copies of orders, resolutions of Congress, letters and other interesting material unused. The limit of time and space forbid mention of all.

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY  
MR. L. S. PATRICK

at the

Unveiling of Memorial Tablet

On the Site of Washington's Headquarters

in Pawling, New York

SEPTEMBER 16th, 1905

One hundred and twenty-seven years have come and gone since the tramp of men, the command of officers of the Revolutionary Army were heard in this section. There is no clash of arms, no roar of battle to describe, no victory to celebrate, but rather to commemorate the honor and patriotism of a gallant band of men, who offered all, sacrificed, suffered all, that this great nation might be established.

Let us for the moment invoke the spirit of the Soldier of the Revolution; what think he would see, what would he do, what would he say?

What a scene would he view, what a spectacle, what a memory, what a reverie? Wonderful almost beyond comprehension.

A mighty, marvelous change has been wrought. What a contrast. To-day—yes—





Site Washington Headquarters  
Fredericksburg, Va.

Sept 25<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> 1773.



terday—tomorrow are not so far apart, when we consider there may be here, some like myself, who have known those who were old enough to remember some of the events of the Revolution, or toiled, while their fathers stood in the ranks or led.

To-day, a great world power. Yesterday, but struggling and feeble colonies. To-day great in achievements, great in enterprises, great in possibilities. Yesterday, poor, weak, scorned. To-day, a nation whose friendship is sought, recognized. Yesterday, a small people contending against great odds. To-day, a most wonderful nation, enjoying a liberty unthought of and a freedom undreamed of by our fathers. What, of the to-morrow, what of the future of this great Nation, of this grand Republic?

Only one answer can be given. A greater, a grander, a mightier empire, will rise—for freedom, truth and the rights of man.

We are here assembled on an auspicious occasion to designate and mark the site of the headquarters and to commemorate an event of him "Who was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," the incomparable and matchless Washington.

The Washington orderly book tells us that on the 16th day of September, 1778, one hundred and twenty-seven years ago to-day, the Army was marching by Divisions to Fredericksburg.

The same authority indicates a three-day march. So that on the 19th we find at least a portion of it had arrived in this vicinity.

Just which day Washington himself arrived here is involved in some uncertainty, possibly the 20th, as he passed through Fishkill on his way here on that day. The non-appearance of any letters or orders make it probable it was during the day of the 21st, as his first letter is dated the 22nd and the first order the 23rd.

The order of the 23rd gives us an indefinite knowledge of the headquarters. The Court-martial ordered to meet at General Lincoln's quarters states near Quaker Hill, where headquarters are at present. This "at present" admits the headquarters were not permanently located. Lossing, in his life of Gen. Schuyler, confirms this opinion. He says: "General Schuyler was put on his trial where Washington had his headquarters and which he had just evacuated." The trial begun on the first day of October. On this day the headquarters were not at General Lincoln's quarters but somewhere else. In further confirmation of this, the Elijah Fisher's Journal tells us on the 25th of September, "Headquarters and likewise the guard left Oblong and came to Mr. Cain's, Fredericksburgh."

The question has been raised that it is strange the local tradition is not better sustained that the headquarters were at John Kane's. That no better remembrance remains of the headquarters at John Kane's is neither surprising nor strange. It must be remembered he was a large landholder and the possessor of other property to a large amount. With him, like others similarly situated, property possession was

greater than patriotic purpose. It is more than probable he had no faith in the success of the patriots' cause. It was neither prudent, safe nor politic to espouse it. Remaining loyal to the British crown, the circumstances of war brought severe penalty, the loss of property, dispossession, forfeiture and removal.

Under these conditions it is not surprising nor strange there is so little retained in this community. It is fair to presume his immediately family had no incentive to perpetuate any recollection of the event of the occupancy of his premises by the Commander-in-chief of the army, or that in future years, it would be a matter of any importance. It is more than probable his nearest descendants were told their ancestor, John Kane, was despoiled of his property so that the memory of the event left but slight impression and recollection. However as this may be, the documentary proof is ample and sufficient to establish the headquarters at John Kane's.

First, the letter of Gov. Clinton to Robert R. Livingston, dated at Pokeepsie, 23rd Sept., 1778. Clinton Papers, Vol. 4, p. 77: "The army has left the plains and are now posted along the mountains from Danbury to West Point. Headquarters at John Kane's at Fredericksburgh, for which place Gen'l Washington after visiting the forts, passed through Fishkill on Sunday last." (20th Sept., 1778.)

Second, Elijah Fisher's Journal, 1775-1784, p. 10, 25th Sept.: "Headquarters and likewise the guard left Oblong and come to

Mr. Cain's in Fredrensbury four miles and pitched tents."

30th: "His Excellency and addecamp returned from Fishkills to Mr. Cain's."

Third, Washington's Order Book, Oct. 22nd. "Nixon's, Huntington's and Parsons' Brigade are to march to-morrow from the left under command of Maj. Gen'l McDougall. The Quartermaster General will give the route. Order repeated in the Division orders. Gen'l McDougall's Order book. Orders of March, Oct. 22nd:

"The Rout will be by headquarters to Col. Morehouses, then to Deacon Gaylords from thence to Shawan River through New Milford, then to Southington Meeting house and last to Farmington."

Division orders McDougall's order book, Oct. 22nd. Order of March.

"Gen'l Nixon's Brigade leads. Huntington's follows and Parson's brings up the rear. Nixon will throw out a vanguard. Parson and Huntington will furnish a rear guard.

"As there is no forage between this and Deacon Gaylord's, the general desires the troops will be in motion as early as possible.

"The two Connecticut Brigades will halt at the Cross Road near headquarters to let Gen'l Nixon's Brigade pass by them. The Route will be by Headquarters to Col. Morehouses then to Deacon Gaylord, repeating the continuance of the route already given."

Fourth, Gen'l Rufus Putnam in a letter to Washington Oct. 15th, reporting the most feasible and convenient halting place on the

route to Boston, furnishes this description: "From the Park by Headquarters to Deacon Gailers 13 miles. On this route the road is very good. 20 miles to New Milford. The hills are very few and easy of ascent."

Fifth, The maps, whose accuracy and authenticity is supported by the prevailing system of roads.

Sixth, the letter (Boardman letter) read before the conference, 1901, at Quaker Hill.

Seventh, the Sarah Morris letter recently quoted.

Eighth, Clinton, in giving the location of the troops, is in accordance with the facts. The system of correspondence in vogue, the means of conveying information rapidly for the time, it is improbable that Gov. Clinton could have been mistaken.

The Fisher Journal quoted as authority by others, kept by one who belonged to Washington's life guard. It is hardly possible that he could have been mistaken in his knowledge of the movements of his General, or where the headquarters were.

The order directing the march of General McDougall towards Boston leaves no doubt of the direction taken and travelled.

The letter of Gen'l Rufus Putnam, describing the route, and in that letter informing Washington that if he had received his letter sooner, he would have been more particular, but the report then made he considered sufficiently accurate and would prove no material detriment to the service.

The maps hardly admit of a question that the maker of them had definite and personal knowledge of their courses and direction,

the locations, prominent features and habitations then existing.

The letters of Boardman and Morris of such date, no disposition can be maintained against their truthfulness.

These authorities are sufficient, ample and conclusive to prove and set at rest the location of the Headquarters of Washington at Fredericksburg from Sept. 24 to Nov. 28, 1778, at John Kane's and at no other place.

In arriving at this conclusion, it is without prejudice, impartially but with the determination to present the facts as found and to relate them. I am not unmindful of the claims of the Reed Ferris premises. It is to be regretted there is no documentary evidence to sustain the contention. I doubt not that Washington was there, but that his stay was only temporary.

In passing let us fix some other events of the Revolution in this locality. Previous to the court-martial of Gen'l Schuyler at the Reed Ferris house as stated by Lossing, the assembling of the court under the order of the 23rd of September, that the court was the continuance of the court assembled at White Plains the 23rd of August, at which Gen'l St. Clair was put on trial for neglect of duty. When the court assembled here it was composed of the same officers as were named at White Plains and only changed on account of the illness of Col. Wyllis for the trial of Gen'l Schuyler.

Gen'l Schuyler, in a letter to William Duer, a member of Congress from this state, makes it clear that St. Clair's trial was con-



cluded by the court first assembled at White Plains.

Here at this place was held the Council which determined the location of the Army for the winter; here also was a drawing of the clothing by lot which had been received during the stay of the Army here. Col. Alexander Hamilton drew for New York and drew blue for the New York troops, and here all the important letters of Washington were written during the period, and here the orders that governed the movements of the army were issued, the promotions named, the punishments ordered, and the morality of the troops counseled.

*Elijah Fisher's Journal, Oct. 6th to 23rd.*

"The 6th Oct. I returned and jines the guard again and at my return I finds an alteration in the dress of my mates. I asked one of them I Herrick it seams as though there had been an Alteration Since I had been gone. He said that he had that money sent to him that he sent for (Now I know that he had Sent for Som Money from his father) I said I was glad off it for I hoped we Should not be so putt out for money to bye things with now and that you now will be able to pay me that trifil you owe me (Sixteen Dollars) he said he hoped he should.

"Presently in comes one or two more I said have you had money Sent you from home too I fear that you have taken some other way to git it than that, then Herrick Said as I. Herrin was out after things for

the Genarl's Famely (Now Herrin was one that was sent after to bye things for the Genar'l Famely and he had a horse and a pass to go where he Could get such things as wanted for the Genral's Famely) he come to an old Tory's house and they would not Let him have anything and he See Several things that he wanted so when he come home he gos to his Messmates and takes them and they gos and robed him of Several things. I said that whether he was a tory or not If it would be found out (which such things as Robery Seldim is) Some or all of you will be hung which Surprised them very much but there was no more heard about it.

The 8th.

"His Exelency and Addecamp returned from Fishkill to Mr. Cane's.

The 17th.

"In Remembrance of Gen. Burgoins De-feet the Day was Selebrated with the firing of Canon and in throing of Skilokets in the are thirteen was fired then they begun to through the skilokets and a merry Day they had too at the Park of Artillery. At night some of the Guard was a going to the park Col. Harrisons waiter was a coming from there under way run over one of them which hurt him so that he died the Same Night.

The 18th.

"John Lovejoy the man that was killed by the horse was Decently Buried. There was them four that was Said that Robed the Tory brought to and Examination Viz John Herron John Herrick Moses Walton

and Elias Brown. The same day John Strogdal one of the Guard was to Mr. Howlens and he was a telling him how that he had been Robed So and So at such a time and that the lever that the men had on that Robed him was a round hatter with a piece of Bare Skin on it but they were all blacked and that he had made Enquiry through the Army but Could not find any that wore such hats but the guard asked him if he had seen any of the Guard more fuller of money than usual he said he did not know but he had but did not know how they Come by it. The man said that he did not want any man hurt upon his account for he knew that they would be hung if they were found out and told Strogdal that if he would find the things and put them where he mite find them he would say no more about it. Strogdal gos home to the guard and was consulting with one of his messmates about it for they had Destroyed a Part of the things and if they did anything about it it would bring it all out. In the meenwhile there come Mr. Howage to the officers of the Guard on Suspicion that Some one had Robed him (for they Robed one Friday Night and the other on Monday Night) and as they was a talking about it one of the waiters Come and Told them that Strogdal knew something about them. He was Called and Exemend but he tryed to hide what he could but they told him that if he Did not tell all he knew about it he would be taken up on Suspicion and fare accordingly then he thought it would be known and if he Did not tell about it What he-

knew it would bring him into Difficulty so he up and tells all that he knew Consarning the affare then they Sends an Confined Herrick and Brown and Sends Sargt Harris with two Lite horse men into the Country after Walton that was not well and he was abed and asleep and they tells the woman that they wanted a Candle and so they gos up Chamber and stands over him with there Swords drawn in there hands and awakes him and told him he was there prinoner and he gets up and had a pare of Dearskin Breeches that they got to Mr. Howlens So they feches him to the gard and confinds him with the others and Her-rin was out and having a general pass they were afrade that he would hear of it So they Sends to a place where he Did Sometimes Reside but he being not there they Returned.

The 19th:

“The next morning Leut Livingstone was to the Park of Artillery (Herrin in his return from the Country Come by there) Sends a man with him for fear he would make his Escape So he was garded to Head-Quarters and Confind with the others. The same Day they were Examend and Herrick Said that he was loth to go after they had Set out and Gon a little way he would fane have had them gon back but they told him that if he did not go that they would Despatch him for they would not have him Enform against them. So he was obliged to go So he turned States Evedende against the others So after Examination was found gilty and what thing that Could be

found that they had not Desposed of was Restored to them again that they belonged too and where they had Payd any Dets they was obliged to Restore it to them again and they to the ones they got it from, then the Same day they was all sent to the purvey guard.

The 22nd :

“They all had ther Tryel and Herrin, Walton and Brown was sentenst to be hung and Herrick to have a Hundred Lashes. Walton made his escape from the purvey gard and Herrin was hung at Fishkills and Brown made his escape from the Gard that was sent to gard him to the Place of Exe-cution to New Milford to the part of the army that lay there. Herrick was carried to Frederixburg and had a hundred Lashes. The 23rd :

“Gen. Pattisons, Gen. Huntington and Gen. Nixon’s Brigades Marched to Hartford Save Col. Parson’s Reg’t that went on-word.

The 24th :

“The Gard Marcht down to Fredrexburg to see a man hung for Robing he was Executed at Eleven in the Fournoon Thomas Glover by Name and there was five Whipt One Hundred lashes apease all Save one for Robing two of them belonged to the Gard Viz: John Harrick and Joseph Tumberlak, for Striking an Officer.

*Celebration of Burgoyne's Surrender.*

October 17th.

The Colonists and the American Army had just cause to celebrate this day. This day, Dearborn in his Journal, states, "The Great Burgoyne with his whole army surrendered themselves prisoners of War, with all their Public Stores, and after grounding their arms marched off for New England, the greatest conquest ever known."

Boardman tells us that there was a grand parade and festival, the tables were set under a long shade of green boughs, and when the general arrived, the spectators dismounted and took their stand outside of the assembly of officers, who joined in numerous parties in conversation for a long time before dinner was served."

Fisher in his Journal tells us, "In remembrance of Gen'l Burgoyne's defeat, the day was celebrated with the firing of cannon and the throwing of sky rockets, . . . and a merry day they had too at the Park of Artillery."

The day was celebrated by the Division under Gen'l Gates at Danbury. Dearborn's Journal gives us a more particular account, and from it we may judge what kind of a day the merry day at Fredericksburg was.

"17th, this being the first anniversary of the glorious 17th of October, 1777, the field officers of this Division make an entertainment for all the officers of the Division and gentlemen of the town. We eat dinner on

a small hill between two of the brigades. After the officers of the three brigades had assembled on the hill by marching in Divisions 13 in each, 13 cannon were discharged from each brigade at which time Gen'l Gates arrived with a number of other Gen'l Officers, there was then three cheers from the whole Division. At dinner we had about 350 Officers and other gentlemen. After dinner there was 13 toasts drank and a cannon discharged for each. At evening we retired to the town and spent the evening very agreeably.

18th. "We are getting sober."

### *New York in the Revolution.*

It was not until the 20th of April, 1777, that New York declared itself. Then the Representatives in Convention assembled resolved "That reasons assigned by the Continental Congress, were cogent and conclusive . . . and will at the risque of our lives and fortunes join with the other colonies in supporting it. Satisfaction with the state of affairs as they were, the security of property, were among the patent factors that held New York, and yet, while the historians here until recently held that she did not furnish only about 18,000 men, it has been found that nearly 44,000 men were in the service. In patriotism New York was second to none, and acted promptly upon the recommendations made by the Provincial Congress of N. Y. and the Continental Congress.

The first Continental Congress adopted a policy of non-interference, recommended that committees be appointed in every province, county and town to sign the association that was drawn up and to be enforced as vigorously as possible. Subscribers to the Dutchess County Proceedings under date of Jan. 18, 1775, declared that our Sovereign Lord, King George, was the only Sovereign to whom British Americans can, could or ought to owe and bear true and faithful allegiance, and they would when called upon, enforce obedience to the authority of King George the 3rd. (Signed by a number of inhabitants of Dutchess Co.)

The pledge adopted after the Battle of Lexington, signed in several precincts of Dutchess Co., declared, "We will in all things follow the advice of our General Committee . . . for the preservation of peace, and good order and for the safety of individuals and property."

The Archives of the State do not contain any record of any signers from the Fredericksburgh and Pawling precincts. The Misses Patterson, of Patterson, have an original pledge signed by Matthew Patterson, Joseph Chandler, Comfort Ludington, Reuben Miers, James Dickenson, Jr., Josiah Bennett, Malcolm Morrison, Alex Kidd, Henry Ludington, Elijah Oakley, William Calkin, David Atkins, Stephen Baxter.

Afterwards some of these adhered to their allegiance to the British Crown, and others rendered meritorious service in the War of the Revolution."

In the exercises held here this day, let



us not forget the one who unveils this tablet, Laura A. Stuart Sherwood. It is remarkable that by her, we are but one remove from those who, under the most discouraging circumstances, conducted and brought to a successful conclusion, a war which has brought the best results to mankind.

The great problems that have been met and solved, the great achievements, the great expansion of our country, have occurred during her lifetime, and yet, we look back upon the past and think the country is old. Not so. Let us not forget we are honored by her presence. Let us honor her, and in going, remember we have witnessed one of the events of our lives, a living connection with those of the Revolutionary times, and with those of our own progressive present, and the great future that lies before us.

Read Sept. 16th, 1905, at the unveiling of the tablet marking the site of Washington's Headquarters at Fredericksburg, N. Y., during the fall of '1778.

LEWIS S. PATRICK.

# DUTCHESS CO., N. Y., RECORDS.

## CO. CLERK'S OFFICE.

Vol. 8: 18.

Mch. 28, 1781, by Comrs. of For.

Former owner, John Kain.

Purchaser, Col. Henry Ludington.

Con., £150.

150 acres in Pawling Precinct.

Boundaries, a hill called Mount Tom, Beekman Pre. line, a road leading over the mountain, a tree "near Nichol's House," etc.

Vol. 8: 57.

May 1, 1781, by Comrs. of For.

Former owner, John Kain.

Purchaser, Wm. B. Alger.

Con., £1,300.

486 acres in Pawling Pre.

Boundaries, a fork in roads (one to Fredericksburgh, other to mountain), Edy's line, Corban's line, "top of a mount called purgatory," etc.

Vol. 8: 287.

July 3, 1784, by Comrs. For.

Former owner, John Kain.

Purchaser, John Morin Scott.

Con., £810.

3 lots in *Rombout* Pre. of 21, 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ , and 15 acres, near Fishkill.

Vol. 8: 294. April 3, 1783.

Former owner, John Kain.

Purchaser, Caleb Hains.

Con., £230.

150 acres Pawling Pre.

Boundaries, the lines of Jeremiah Sabin, Wm. Pearce, John Hoeg, Wm. Alger, Isaac Van Vert, Wm. Hunt, and "Willis's line," subject to a lease in Caleb Hains possession.

Vol 10: 9.

Feb. 28, 1771.

John Kane & Sybill h. w.

To

Reed Ferris of Pawling Pre.

Con., £100.

Land Pawling Pre. near Jabez Sherman & Nehemiah Merritt, "Willis's line," etc.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE.

Albany, January 5, 1903.

LEWIS S. PATRICK, ESQ.,

Marinette, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:

With this you will find certified copy of the record of John Kane, as requested.

Yours respectfully,

NATHAN L. MILLER,

Comptroller.

This is to certify that the name of John Kane appears in "Manuscripts of the Colony and State of New York in the Revolutionary War," on file in this department, as follows:

Volume 41, folio 59, page 21.

"List of farms and houses leased by the Commissioners of sequestr. in Dutchess County:

John Kane—Pawlings.

Sep. 7th, 1779—About 40 Acres of his farm leased to Danl. Sering to May 1st, 1780.

Volume 41, folio 61, page 1.

"Effects sold by Commissioners of Sequestration in Dutchess County belonging to the following Persons, Vist.:

John Kane, Augt. 27, 1779...	£627	4	—
ditto. Sept. 7, 1779.....	2,201	4	—
ditto. June 15, 1780....	600	—	—
ditto. Oct. 5, 1780.....	3,984	—	—

Volume 42, folio 70, page 2.

"Abstract of Vouchers and Evidence of the Value of Firewood, Timber, &c., taken by the Army of the United States at different times, for the use of said Army from Sequestered Estates within the State of New York, as Valued by proper judges chosen by me on the part of the United States and James Roosevelt on the part of the State aforesaid.

No. of Certifs. Issued.	Dates.	Names of persons appointed to value property.	Former Proprietors Names.	Names of Persons now Possessing.
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568	—	—	John Kane	—
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District in which each farm is situated.	Value of Property taken.	Amt. of each Certificate.
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Fredericksburgh, Dutchess Co.	£5 11 —	—
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Volume 43, folio 45, page 7.

"Dr. JOHN KANE.

To amount brought from			
Folio 23 .....	£118	9	2
To Elizabeth Slegt....	71	5	9
To Elias Desbrosses...	313	15	
To Elias Desbrosses...	35	12	4
To James Desbrosses...	40	8	9
To Thomas Regan.....	2	3	8
To Joseph Elderton....	6	8	11
To Nathaniel Marston..	62	3	7
To Charles McEvers...	116	14	5
To Robt. G. Livingston	14	11	1
	<hr/>		
	831	12	8
	<hr/>		

Dividend... 3 5d. 26-100

	Cr.
By amount Brought from Folio 23.....	2,863 1 8
By Sundry Accounts from large ledger 38..	480 6 "

Volume 44, folio 32.

“To the Treasurer of the State of New  
York.

Samuel Dodge, John Hathorn and Daniel  
Graham, late Commissioners of Forfeiture  
for the Middle District of said State, do  
hereby Certify and make known to the said  
Treasurer that we have sold the Estate of  
John Kain late of the Co. of Dutchess.

By appraisement agreeable to  
the Law of the 4th October,  
1780, for Two thousand five  
hundred and seventeen pounds  
six shillings and eight pence in  
Certificates

2517 6 8  
Which is all the Estate of said John  
Kain sold by us and the amount  
paid into the Treasury.

SAML. DODGE  
DANL. GRAHAM  
JOHN HATHORN”

*Certificate of John Kane.*

"Sir

In consequence of the provision in the Twenty-third section of the Act for the Settlement of the Public Accounts passed the 22d day of March last, I have agreed with John Young of the City of New York, Sadler, that he shall be allowed the sum of Eight hundred and Eleven pounds, as the proportion to be paid by the State of the Sum of One Thousand Pounds the amount of the monies paid by him to the Executors of Elias Desbrosses deceased, in full payment of the principal and interest due on a certain Mortgage of Lands in the County of Dutchess from John Kane attainted of adhering to the enemies of this State, to the said Elias Desbrosses, and assigned by the said Executors to the said John Young, in consideration of the said Sum of One Thousand Pounds, and the said John Young having executed and delivered to me such release as I have deemed requisite for securing the persons holding parcels of the said Mortgaged premises by Title derived from the State against you to Pay, to the said John Young, the said Sum of Eight hundred and eleven pounds.

I remain your most Obedt Servt,

EGBERT BENSON, *Atty. Genl.*,

Novr. 25th, 1788.

To Gerard Bancker, Esqr.,  
Treasurer.

(Copy)

G. BANCKER, *Treasr.*"

WILLIS E. MERRIMAN,  
Second Deputy Comptroller.

[SEAL]











